

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Sir Adolphe Caron Sustained

A long threatened attack on the administration of the Department of Militia and Defence was made in the Commons on Thursday last, by Mr. Wm. Mulock, member for North York, Ont. This gentleman is not a militiaman, but he has for a long time taken an active interest in military affairs, and has been a liberal supporter of as well as worker for the Ontario Rifle Association, of which he is the president. Mr. Mulock's attack was in the form of a want of confidence motion, he moving in amendment to the motion that the House go into committee of supply, "That the administration of the Department of Militia and Defence at Ottawa as at present constituted is unsatisfactory to the militia force of Canada and does not command public confidence." While formally making this general condemnation, Mr. Mulock supported it only in so far as the contracts for militia clothing are concerned. He quoted at great length from the evidence taken this session before the public accounts committee, where the subject had been fully investigated, and where it had been proved—what everybody interested knew already—that the first issues of the Canadian made clothing were very inferior in material and finish. But it had also been shown that an improvement has since taken place, the clothing now issued being declared by experts to be quite equal if not superior to that formerly imported from England.

It was upon this point that Sir Adolphe Caron laid most stress in the spirited reply he made—a reply in which the Minister showed to great advantage, by the force and vigour of his address. He freely admitted that the first attempts to manufacture the militia clothing in Canada had not resulted satisfactorily to anyone concerned, but inasmuch as the Department had profited by its experience, and was now able to furnish a superior article, he thought the want of confidence motion was inopportune brought. He admitted that the price paid for the clothing was much in advance of what the English make could be purchased for, but thought this was justifiable in view of the fact that the large amount of money annually required for this purpose is expended in the Dominion, in building up a Canadian industry.

Besides answering the charges preferred by Mr. Mulock, Sir Adolphe dealt at some length with previous attacks made in the press and elsewhere. He referred to the letter which appeared in the *Broad Arrow* some time ago over the signature "A Canadian," and in which he and his Deputy had been condemned on account of their nationality. "That Canadian," said he, "I am informed, is known in literary circles by the poetical name of Linchpin." In this statement of the Minister the MILITIA GAZETTE is particularly interested because of the fact that, so far as we are aware, the gentleman who signs himself "Linchpin" has

used that *nom de plume* only as a correspondent of this paper. In his correspondence he has, as our readers will remember, vigorously pointed out many weak points in our militia system and its administration, but his conclusions were all drawn from passages which he quoted from the annual reports presented to parliament by the Minister; and his attacks, to the best of our recollection, have not at any time been personal. Certainly the Minister or his Deputy were never held up to contumely because of their nationality. The tone of the *Broad Arrow* letter was quite different to that of any communication received by the MILITIA GAZETTE from Linchpin. When it appeared this paper was the first to call Canadian attention to and condemn the letter, which we showed to be false in almost every sentence, and we shall be very much disappointed if its paternity be not distinctly disavowed by the gentleman to whom it has been thus publicly attributed by the Minister.

Upon the vote being taken, after several members had spoken on each side, Mr. Mulock's amendment was negatived by 95 to 54, the vote being a party one with the exception that Mr. Clarke Wallace, the mover's colleague from York County, though a Conservative, stood up for the amendment, and so also did another Conservative, Mr. Cimon; while one Liberal, Mr. Chouinard, was recorded on the Government side. The military men present all stood true to their party allegiance. One, Capt. Sutherland, voted for the amendment, and eight voted against it, these being, Lieut.-Cols. Denison, Kirkpatrick, Prior, Tisdale and Tyrwhitt, Majors Carpenter and Guillet, and Capt. Ward.

Numerous amendments to the "Infantry Drill, 1889," have recently been authorized by an Imperial General Order. A full list of these will appear in our next issue, being crowded out this week.

The Militia Bill introduced in the Commons early in the session was one of the government measures dropped at the close. Sir Adolphe Caron explained that since its introduction he had received many valuable suggestions from officers in various parts of the country, and these suggestions would be considered in the preparation of another measure to be submitted next session. The bill, it will be remembered, aims at amending the regulations governing the calling out of the militia in aid of the civil power.

This paragraph records the latest distinction achieved by one of our Military College graduates abroad. It is taken from the *Army and Navy Gazette* of the 13th April: "The Queen has given orders for the following appointment in recognition of the services of the undermentioned officer during the operations in Sulyman District, viz.: Lieut. H. B. Mackay, R. E., to have the local rank of Captain whilst commanding R. E. on the west coast of Africa." Capt. Mackay graduated from the Royal Military College in 1881.

Taking into consideration that the indemnity paid by France to Germany after the war of 1870-71 amounted to five milliard francs, it follows that if this sum were to be paid at the rate of five francs—about \$1—for every minute since the beginning of the Christian era up to date, that sum would not have been paid yet at the present time.

A Debate on the Military College.

The concluding portion of a debate in Parliament on general affairs of the Militia, was crowded out of last week's issue. This, as will be seen below, deals mainly with affairs of the Royal Military College, though at the end there is a reference to the Manitoba battalions:

Lieut.-Gen. LAURIE—I wish to refer to a subject which has been touched upon, though not pursued, by the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) and the hon. member for Halifax (Hon. Mr. Jones), and that is the employment of cadets after they leave the college. The returns show that 190 have gone through the college. Of that number 69 have gone into the Imperial service, 10 into the Canadian Permanent Corps, 20 into the Civil Service or the North-West Mounted Police Force, 79 have entered civil life in Canada or out of it, besides 12 who have died. Now, it seems to me that as the college has cost the country a great deal of money, it is very desirable that the young men should be where we can lay our hands upon them, that they should not be in civil life, or out of the country altogether. I have taken considerable pains to find out what is done under similar circumstances in the United States. I hold in my hand a list of the engineers of the United States army, and I have analysed that list. I have also a letter from Gen. Deane, Chief of Engineers, United States Army, Washington, stating how the graduates are employed. He says:

"The officers are selected from the highest men each year graduated from the United States Military Academy. Upon the recommendation of the Academic Board these officers are commissioned as second lieutenants in the Corps of Engineers, and sent to the Engineers' School of Application at Willet's Point, near New York city, where they remain for two years on duty as officers of the engineers troops (sappers and miners), and under instruction as to their general duties as engineer officers. The engineering curriculum at both West Point and Willet's Point includes a full course in civil engineering. Upon completion of the course at the Engineers' School of Application the young officer is subject to detail as assistant on any of the works under the supervision of the Engineer Corps, and in the routine of his service as a lieutenant he may have practical experience in all branches of civil and military engineering. By the time he reaches the grade of captain, and often before, he is fitted for the charge of a district, and as the exigencies of the service permit he is assigned to the command of a district consisting of such military and civil works as it may be advisable to group together under one officer. In the discharge of his duties as said district officer he is entirely independent of the general officer of the line of the army, such as department and division commanders, and reports directly to the chief engineer; in making his disbursement, whether civil or military, he is accountable to the Treasury Department through the War Department, and is not required to give bonds, no matter how large his disbursements. The officers of the Corps of Engineers have charge of (1) permanent and field defences and fortifications, torpedo defences, military maps, pontoon trains, military bridges, mining, &c., and the command of the engineer troops. (2) Improvement of rivers and harbors for which appropriations are made annually by Congress. (3) Construction and repairs of lighthouses, light keepers' dwelling, beacons, fog signals, &c. (4) Instructors and assistant professors at the United States Military Academy. The first, second and fourth functions are exercised under the direction of the Secretary of War, and the third under that of the Secretary of the Treasury. The same officer may, and often does, exercise several of these functions at once.

By examining the list, out of 106 officers of the Engineer Corps, I find that 20 only are employed solely in military duties, 21 partially in military and partially in civil duties, 8 as instructors in military colleges, and no less than 57 in purely civil duties. I think it would be quite possible that these young men, after leaving college, when they can only be considered as half trained soldiers, might be attached to our permanent corps, and when they have had further training as officers they might then be passed on into the public service. I do not mean in civil branches of the service, but they might be employed under the Railway Department and under the Public Works Department. I am not finding fault with the Minister of Militia that he does not propose this, because it would cost money, and I know how difficult it is for him to obtain money; nor do I find fault with the Government, but perhaps I might find fault with the members of the House as a whole, because this would divest them of some patronage. I cannot help that. Although the members of this House may be deprived of some patronage, the public would benefit by getting a superior class of engineers for any work in which engineering is required, and at the same time these men would be under the control of the Government and would be available for active service, and be from time to time employed with our militia, giving strength to it, and making themselves useful as staff officers. I would throw out this suggestion to the House. I do think that some steps might be taken by which these young men might be retained permanently in the public service, so that the expense we have made on them should not be thrown away.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I may remark that not once or twice, but at least half a score of times, I have called on the Government to do what the founders of the college intended that they should do, to put a few appointments such as he described at the disposal of the most promising of the young cadets, and I am very glad indeed to find that some other gentlemen are desirous of seeing that carried out. Now, I want to know what the hon. gentleman is going to do with this \$18,000 more which he is asking for.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—That is merely a different way of keeping accounts. There is an increase of \$18,000. The vote for 1889-90 represents a portion of the annual subscriptions and payments by cadets to the credit of the Receiver General for entrance fees, education and board, which hitherto have been credited against expense for the Royal Military College, but which it is intended to credit in the future to the revenue of the Dominion.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—Will the hon. gentleman state how much he receives from graduates?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—There is annually paid for each cadet for board, clothing, books, &c.: first year, \$300; namely, \$100 board and instruction, and \$200 for clothing, &c. Each subsequent year, \$250; namely, \$100 board and instruction, and \$150 clothing, &c.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—Which it is now proposed to raise to \$350.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Yes.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—No doubt there is a great deal of force in what the hon. gentleman has said, that it is desirable we should make the college as nearly self-supporting as possible. But he will remember that in the early stages of the college, admission was fairly open to competition, and a considerable number of the best pupils were the sons of men in comparatively poor circumstances. There is this circumstance which must be remembered, namely, that by raising the fee you practically put it out of the power of any man who is not in tolerably good circumstances to send his sons there. I do not know whether on a balance of the advantage, that may not be wise, but some of the very best officers now in the Imperial Service were sons of men who certainly could not have paid \$350 a year for each of them, the sum which the hon. gentleman proposes to charge.

MR. WATSON—Is it the intention of the Minister to allow the 95th Battalion, Manitoba, to go into camp this season?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—The matter of camping and training has not yet been considered, and I am not in a position to give an answer to the hon. gentleman.

MR. WATSON—It is very important that this battalion should go into camp as it has not been in camp since 1885, and permission has been given for the formation of another battalion in Manitoba. I do not know for what purpose that is being done. I am afraid it is for political purposes and in order to give Major Bedson a commission. He has only got 4 companies yet, I believe. It would be much more in the interest of the militia force that those now enrolled should be annually drilled. It is much better to have an efficient body of 20,000 men than the present force of 37,000. This company was supposed to drill last summer, but unfortunately the order was countermanded and the company has not drilled since the year I have stated.

Annual Artillery Practice—Royal Military College, 1889.

The practice is to be conducted with the following ends in view:—

1. *General comparison of infantry and shrapnel fire*; the infantry arm being the M. H. rifle,—the artillery arm the 9 pr. R.M.L.

2. To obtain data in proof or disproof of the following:—

(a.) Artillery fire is "*practically no more effective at short ranges than it would be were the guns kept out of infantry fire.*" Artillery Drill, Chapter V.

(b.) "*The accuracy of modern guns is practically as great at 1,500 yards as at 500 yards.*" Infantry Drill, 1889, Pt. VI.

3. "*The effect of the fire of artillery does not increase at ranges shorter than 1,100 or 1,200 yards, since this is the distance at which every shot tells, and their effect is annihilating. On the other hand the effect of the fire of infantry increases at every step which brings them nearer to their target.*"

"*The effect of infantry fire first bears comparison with that of artillery at a range of 500 yards, and will not be equal to it before between 330 and 220 yards.*" Letters on Infantry: Prince Kraft.

For the purposes of comparison of infantry and artillery fire, the two arms are to have an *equal front* and are to be in action for *equal periods of time*.

CALCULATION OF FRONT.

1. An artillery brigade-division (3 batteries, 18 guns) occupies a front of $(98 \times 3) + (28\frac{1}{2} \times 2) = 294 + 57 = 351$ yards.

A Section (2 guns) will therefore occupy

$$351 \div 9 = 39 \text{ yards} = 47 \text{ paces.}$$

2. "*When the firing line opens fire, rank entire will be formed; each man will then occupy a space of 2 paces.*" P. 329, Infantry Drill, 1889.

The front of an artillery section would therefore be represented by 23 rifles. This is more accurately calculated as follows:—

(a.) A battalion (800 men) acting alone, is to have 4 sections of 25 men, or 100 men in firing line, occupying a front of 212 paces. (b.) When acting as part of a larger force there are to be 8 sections, or 200

men, in firing line, on a front of 424 paces. The proportion of men to pace is the same in both cases, viz., 2.02 paces to 1 man.

Thus, the front of artillery section, 47 paces, would be represented by $100 \times \frac{47}{20.2} = 22.1$ rifles.

This is the proportion up to the "first phase of the third zone." This phase begins at 800 yards and ends at 150 yards from the enemy. At the commencement of this phase "reinforcements are to take place to keep the line at its most efficient density." This density may be taken to mean one man per yard of front. At a distance of 800 yards from the enemy the firing line should therefore be increased to 39 rifles.

CALCULATION OF TIME.

(a) *Infantry.* At 1,200 yards range, infantry will fire deliberately 2 volleys in 1 minute; at 800 yards, 3 volleys in 1 minute; at 400 yards, 7 rounds individually in 1 minute.

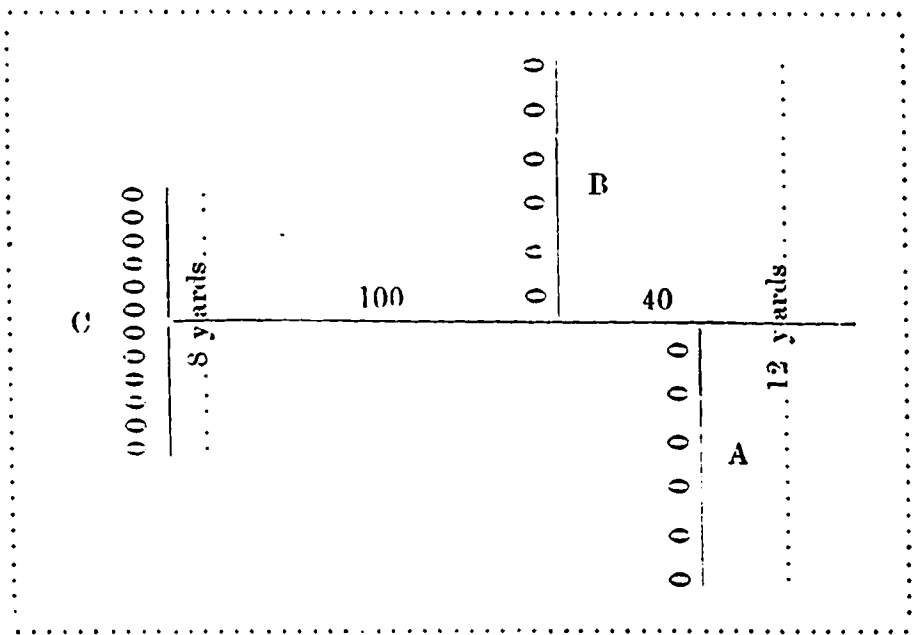
(b.) *Artillery.* At 1,200 yards, 2 field guns may be calculated to fire 1 round (2 shots) in 1 minute; at 800 yards, 1½ rounds (3 shots) in 1 minute; at 400 yards, 2 rounds (4 shots, case) in 1 minute.

TABLE OF TIME, MEN AND AMMUNITION.

	INFANTRY.	ARTILLERY.
<i>1st Period.</i> 1,200 yards. 5 minutes.	22 men. 10 volleys. 220 bullets.	2 guns. 10 shrapnel. 650 bullets.
<i>2nd Period.</i> 800 yards. 3 minutes.	39 men. 9 volleys. 351 bullets.	2 guns 9 shrapnel. 585 bullets.
<i>3rd Period.</i> 400 yards. 1 minute.	39 men. 7 individual shots. 273 bullets.	2 guns. 4 case. 432 bullets.

THE TARGET.

The target represents a section of infantry, 24 men, 12 men being extended to occupy two paces of front each, 6 of these standing, 100 yards in front of the support, and 6 lying down, 40 yards in advance. Thus:



The front of the extended portion, A and B, will be 22 paces, or 18 yards. The front of the support will be 8 yards, the depth of the target 140 yards. The target is painted *natural colours*.

RULES FOR PRACTICE.

1. The artillery will first pick up the range with common shell and percussion fuze. The range found thus will be communicated to the infantry party.
2. The range party will *count* the hits on the target after each period of fire, and will *cross them off* after entering them on the range report.
3. The range party may communicate the results of each period to the superintendent by telephone. This information will not be made use of by the firing parties, but will be used to determine the end of each period of fire.
4. The period of fire at each range may be altered as required in order to get sufficient results, but the proportion between the number of rounds of infantry and artillery is to be kept as in above table.
5. The battery, infantry party and range reports to be carefully kept. A comparative report embodying the total results to be drawn up after the practice.
6. All firing to be deliberately carried out without hurry.

March 28, 1889.

Correspondence.

(This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.)

That Artillery Competition.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I heartily thank Captain Bliss for giving the public an example of the manner in which the protest of the Hamilton Field Battery was considered by the anti-protesting members of the D. A. A. Having formed a foregone conclusion, they can see but one side of this question, and having decided in their own minds that one who would say that the Executive Committee made a mistake and should correct it, is a very wicked person, they unconsciously impart a suspicious colour to every little circumstance. If I make a direct statement, the truth of which cannot be questioned, it is an "insinuation to which I lend my name." If for illustration I draw a parallel, it is a "direct misstatement," and Captain Bliss being persuaded of the unfathomable guilt and wickedness of one who would dare to question the infallibility of the Executive Committee of the D. A. A. from the cloud-land of his imagination conjures up "misstatements" I have made, and sees offence in my peroration. I cannot understand what offence Captain Bliss would have your readers infer I committed. I wrote that in 1885 Hamilton was out of the competition for any place in the efficiency list, and that after '84 Hamilton had been on an equality (equally weighted) with the fortunate batteries in these competitions once in four years. The context plainly shows that there was not the most remote intention—nor can I see how it can be distorted into that shape—to have any one infer "that Hamilton would have been any more successful as to winning prizes" with the dismounting credits allowed. Captain Bliss has discovered what I did not mention, that Hamilton's place in the efficiency list was through loss of dismounting credits changed from third to fifth, "a matter worthy of note." All this, which is only the language of prejudice, looks like the wickedness of deliberate defamation.

All the arguments Captain Bliss brings forward have already been disposed of in my letter of March the 14th, and no praise of the Executive Committee can change the unnecessarily varying conditions pointed out in that letter, and no talk of artillery fire as the "essence of efficiency" can offer any reason why there should not be an efficiency competition not at the disposal of the accident of varying conditions. According to Captain Bliss the Executive of the D. A. A., after in the past having left no stone unturned to secure an equal competition—with the result I have pointed out—have now outdone themselves, and have done away with many of the necessarily varying conditions, thanks, I suppose, to Captain Bliss and others who were satisfied with the perfection of the old state of affairs.

Captain Bliss does not lack confidence in his own ability—for he kindly gives the officer commanding the battery which won the efficiency prize in '87, and which came 1.4 credits of winning it in '88, a few pointers on winning this prize, and explains to L. H. Irving, range officer at Niagara—the most experienced range officer in Canada, an authority on the subject—that he did not fully comprehend instructions quite clear to Captain Bliss. Turn to Captain Bliss's letter, to the paragraph in which he begins to remove the erroneous impressions that readers would undoubtedly conceive by perusing "A Field Artillery Handicap." I quote briefly from his letter: "Major Van Wagner hardly places the matter of signalling blind shrapnel before your readers correctly; the error was caused by the range officer not having fully comprehended the instructions laid down by the Inspector of Artillery. To my mind the instructions are quite clear; the range officer attempted to improve on the signalling as laid down." Captain Bliss was, I believe, present at the last annual meeting of the D. A. A. At this meeting L. H. Irving, in reply to a remark of the Inspector of Artillery, said (I quote from memory): "Sir, You were present at the range, Niagara—and I thank God you were—when a shrapnel fuze blind struck; I signalled fuze good; you enquired why I did so, when I handed you the rules for signalling, and asked you how I should signal; you replied, 'you are correct.'"

I need not explain again about the blind shrapnel, and advantages of using a telephone (see letter March 14th), but might say that the practice is carried out under artificial conditions, and with an artificial scoring and credits, that the credits allowed the same shot have been different different years, that the competitor does not care whether a shell is blind or not, but for the credits he receives for it, that the competitors at Niagara having fired to fit the scoring have a right to ask that the scores awarded them by the register keeper should not be changed, that all the officers of the three batteries at Niagara complain of the target practice as carried out at Niagara, and attribute their low scores to their firing under more unfavourable conditions than the other batteries fired under.

Captain Bliss writes: "The battery that would fire 13 blind shrapnel, signal or no signal, could hardly be called efficient, as the unnecessary

waste of ammunition with such a battery on service, where neither telephone nor flag signalling could be expected, would render its employment a very useless expense. It appears to me that this is the attainment of an efficiency that would put the marksmen of the old smoothbore to blush." *Tu quoque*, Captain Bliss. Take this home to the Ottawa battery, and ask your brother officers what they think of you and your estimate of their battery. You are apparently satisfied that Ottawa's score represents its efficiency at target practice, while Hamilton emphatically denies that the score credited it represents its firing efficiency. Here are the shooting credits, representing the comparative waste of ammunition, which will show, according to Captain Bliss, what a useless expense to the country the Ottawa battery is. Hamilton's shooting credits (with 13 blind shrapnel) 56.8; Ottawa's, 57.8. The exhibition of the military attainments of Ottawa's captain will add much weight to this, his own deduction.

According to Captain Bliss the field artillery of the Dominion is in a most disgraceful state of inefficiency after all "the gigantic work that has been done by the D. A. A.," for (the battery that made a good inner and lacked only a trifle of being) the most efficient battery is a very useless expense. In what a state of inefficiency is the Ottawa battery, which is not as efficient as this one by sixty credits. We might be pardoned for accepting the Ottawa's captain's estimate of the value of his own battery, but we cannot accept his estimate of the other batteries.

Captain Bliss enquires how the falling off of the score of the Hamilton battery as compared with that of the Welland Canal field battery in the final practice is to be accounted for, and offers as an explanation that the commanding officer of the Hamilton battery was not present at the final practice of his battery. Captain John S. Hendrie was in command of the team at the final practice, and to write that the team was not properly overlooked is a direct reflection on an officer competent to overlook a battery anywhere. Captain Hendrie had with him at the final practice Instructor Kerley, many years instructor R. S. A. There were also on the team four n. c. officers holding 1st class R. S. A. certificates, and I believe one or two other n. c. officers holding 1st class R. S. A. certificates were on the detachment, but not on the team. Is it likely that this team was not properly overlooked?

Captain Bliss writes that "Major Van Wagner should have made the most complete enquiries." Do the D. A. A. make the most complete enquiries to ascertain the facts before they publish them? Here is a quotation from the reply of the Executive Committee to the protest of the Hamilton Battery, which is published in the annual report of the D. A. A.: "Moreover, the Welland Canal field battery, firing man for man alternately with the Hamilton field battery under exactly the same conditions, made 41 points more in the aggregate score." The Hamilton battery did not fire under exactly the same conditions as the Welland Canal battery, but fired its final practice at the tattered remains of a target only one half the size of the original target, and through which any number of shells might have gone through without being credited with a direct hit. Captain Bliss after hearing this correction made at the D. A. A. meeting blindly follows his torch-bearer, and brings up again the difference in the scores of these two batteries as a "matter worthy of note." I leave to your readers whether this is ingenuous or not. Having quoted from the reply of the D. A. A. to show their fairness, I will quote farther: "The London battery score at Toronto shows that low scores may be made under presumably the most favourable conditions." Turn to the record of practice, D. A. A. report, and note the very large proportion of n. c. officers in the list of competitors of the different batteries. Look to London and note there were only fifteen marksmen, of whom three (corporals) only were n. c. officers; note that the other two batteries firing at the same range had five staff-sergeants, nine sergeants, seven corporals and three bombardiers, twenty-four n. c. officers among their marksmen. The battery making the highest score at this range had only two gunners on its list. It appears from this that London could not get a team, much less a picked team, to go from London to Toronto to fire, and the presumption is rather that London fired under most unfavourable conditions.

Captain Bliss has made full inquiries and the Quebec battery had studless shell issued to them through an error and through no fault of the D. A. A. or its executive. Where has Captain Bliss got all his light? I looked through the militia report and the report of the D. A. A., and find no mention of an error. I wrote the officer commanding the Quebec Field Battery, and he wrote nothing of an error. Where else should I have inquired? Twice had the D. A. A. had an opportunity of explaining that Quebec fired studless shell through an error; in their own and the militia report. In the militia report 1886, there is a foot note after the battery credits explaining a misunderstanding, and if there was an error in 1888 we would expect to find a foot note mentioning it in the militia report. I had no grounds for assuming anything else than that the D. A. A. merely considered firing studless shell one of the varying conditions. In the report of the D. A. A. there is an explanatory note that the practice of the schools of artillery was carried on with experi-

mental common shell, and that of Quebec was carried on with shells fitted with gas checks. Does it make a difference whether the Regiment of Canadian Artillery or another battery fires the same shells, in these shells being experimental or not? The D. A. A. are very careful that the scores of the R. C. A. should not be misunderstood but it is not thought necessary in the case of Quebec and Woodstock to explain that the shells were experimental.

If there was an error, which I do not believe, who is responsible for the supply of artillery ammunition? If mistakes occur in time of peace what might be expected in case of active service? Every one knows what disasters have occurred in wars through blunders in the supply of ammunition. Common report last fall said that Major Lindsay protested against firing studless shell, and complained bitterly of the treatment of his battery. Captain Bliss, after full enquiries, goes far to confirm this report, by writing that Major Lindsay applied to fire his common shell over again, and did not protest because he did not wish to blame the D. A. A. Can anything greater be said against the firing competition of 1888, than that the two best drilled batteries complained bitterly to the D. A. A. of their treatment.

I will pass over Captain Bliss's personalities as I have no wish to continue a controversy with him, in which I might soon expect to find myself in the predicament Mark Twain found himself in when he ran for Governor of New York.

H. P. VAN WAGNER.

Hamilton, April 20th, 1889.

The Signalling System.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—Captain Bliss in a letter to the GAZETTE under the heading "Alleged Field Artillery Handicap," refers to the signalling of blind shrapnels, and says that "the error in signalling would appear to him to have been caused by the range officer (which I was on this occasion) not having fully comprehended the instructions, and by attempting to improve thereon by allowing his private judgment to decide whether a shell was a common or a shrapnel. That I allowed private judgment to interfere with the regulations I deny; the signalling was carried out strictly in accordance with the instructions given me.

Captain Bliss says that blind shrapnel should be treated as common, and as such should be signalled. A blind shrapnel "120 yards under" is then 70 yards out of bounds, but the diagram shows that shrapnel limits commence at 120 under. He would signal this shell as a common by "7 waves, white, left." At the guns, where it is known that it was a shrapnel, it would be read as "70 yards out of bounds," therefore being a shrapnel, *190 yards under!* That's Capt. Bliss's fallacious argument put into practice.

Capt. Bliss takes no notice of the fact that a shrapnel, blind or otherwise, 100 yards under, is within shrapnel limits—but outside common bounds, and must have *its value*—not the distance under—signalled. Such being the fact, a shrapnel bursting between bannerols 4 and 5 would be signalled 3, a blind between bannerol 1 and target would be sent up as 2,—its proper marks had it burst—and the range officer would enter on the score, at least I did, 3, i. e., half common marks at that point. But Capt. Bliss says that blinds should be treated as commons, therefore he would signal 6 for this blind shrapnel. Honesty and regulations would afterwards compel him to change this 6 into a 3. Does Capt. Bliss think this an accurate system?

On the range, it has been customary for the umpire to inform the range officer that the order of firing would be "4 common, then 8 shrapnel," or "2 common, then 4 shrapnel." Is it then very hard, knowing the number of the round, to distinguish a common from a shrapnel, or a shrapnel from a common?

I have gone over the blind shrapnels so far as the Hamilton Battery is concerned, and I find that Capt. Bliss would have signalled these shells as having an *actual* value of 20 points, but as they happen to be blind shrapnels and not commons, they stand *recorded to-day as 10*. Still Capt. Bliss advocates signalling as against the telephone!

I have no intention of writing on other points raised by Major Van Wagner and Captain Bliss, but one must be drawn attention to. Capt. Bliss has made full inquiries respecting the Canadian shells supplied to the Quebec Battery. In equal justice, he should have ascertained the class of foundation upon which the Executive Committee of the D. A. A. make the statement that Welland and Hamilton fired "under exactly the same conditions." There was a difference of 6 points between Hamilton and Welland in the preliminary, but in the final Hamilton fell off 47 points. How, he asks, is this falling off to be accounted for? That question he should have sifted before going into print. In D. R. A. matches at Ottawa, for instance "the Gizowski," a target 2 feet 6 inches high and 6 feet long, is exposed for firing at. Should one team fire at this target, and another at one 5 feet high and 12 feet long, could it be called firing "under exactly the same conditions?" Wouldn't there be a protest? Yet, this is what happened with the Hamilton Battery,

which fired at a target 4 feet by 6 feet, whilst Welland fired at one 8 feet by 6 feet. Does not Capt. Bliss think that *that may account for some falling off*, and that *the conditions were not the same?*

About the use of telephones and signalling. The flag system is run on this false principle: A man fires, and if within bounds, either common or shrapnel, he is told *the value* of that shot; if outside limits, he is informed of the *number of yards*, which he is under or over, shrapnel or common limits.

Think for one moment. Can Capt. Bliss when at the guns rapidly transpose, or rather turn, the *signalled value* of a shot into the *distance*, under or over? Does the average competitor, officer, n.c.o., or man, know the diagram, for he must have it at his fingers' end to be able to accurately convert values into distances. Does he know where 2 ends for common, and 4 begins? Does he know where common limits end, or shrapnel commences? The telephone is as superior to signalling as the present rule for finding length of fuze is to the Crimean one of sawing it off at so many "thumbs."

L. HOMFRAY IRVING.

Toronto, 19th April, 1889.

Regimental News.

A CRACK COMPANY.

No. 7 Company of the 27th Battalion had a very successful entertainment in the town hall, Sarnia, on the 19th ult. The unique nature of the affair may be judged from the following programme:

Part 1.—1. General Salute and Inspection, No. 7 Company (Presenting medal to successful competitor at target practice, by Lieut. Kittermaster); 2. Reading—The Eagle's Rock, or the Might of a Mother's Love, Mrs. G. L. Phillips; 3. Club Swinging—The Daughters of the Regiment; 4. Selection—Instrumental, Children's Orchestra Band, (Philp family); 5. Squad Drill and Physical Training—Boys' Ever-Ready Cadet Corps; 6. Reading—Rock scene from Ingomar, Miss Malew Lawrence.

Part 2.—1. Calisthenic Exercises—Daughters of the Regiment; 2. Reading—Mrs. G. L. Phillips; 3. Tableaux—"Roll Call, Before and After the Battle," No. 7 Company; 4. Company Drill—Boys' Ever-Ready Cadet Corps; 5. Reading—"Lasca," Miss Malew Lawrence; 6. Fancy Drill—The Daughters of the Regiment; Grand Finale Assembly—No. 7 Company; The Daughters of the Regiment; Boys' Ever-Ready Cadet Corps. "God Save the Queen."

The large audience were delighted with the entertainment provided, and on the part of the company the satisfaction was great also, for they netted over eighty dollars, which goes into the company fund, and will be used in buying ammunition for target practice and giving the men extra comforts while in camp.

In his report on the camp of No. 1 district for 1888, the Deputy-Adjutant-General, Lieut.-Col. Smith, said of this company: "The regiment" (the 27th Lambton Battalion) "was in a creditable state, and its No. 7 Company, under Capt. Ellis, was far before any other company in camp, as regards both appearance and training. Indeed, if all the militia were like this company, there would be very little to be desired."

OTTAWA.

Lord Stanley paid the Governor-General's Foot Guards the compliment of inspecting them at the drill hall, Ottawa, on the evening of Wednesday the 1st inst., and on the following evening he inspected the Ottawa City Company (No. 1) of the 43rd Rifles. His Excellency was accompanied on these visits by Major-General Sir John Ross, the officer commanding the British forces in North America, who is for a few days a guest at Rideau Hall.

Colour-Sergeant Hugh McCarthy of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, died on Tuesday, 30th April, from consumption, the result of exposure while serving in the Northwest in 1885, with the Guards' Sharpshooters. He was twenty-three years of age. He was buried with military honours, on Thursday, 2nd May, the fourth anniversary of the fight at Cut Knife, in which the Sharpshooters were engaged. A firing party was supplied by his Company, No. 5, and six Sergeants of the regiment acted as pall bearers. Sergeant McCarthy had been ailing ever since his return from the Northwest, and was in receipt of a pension in consideration of this. He was exceedingly popular in the regiment, and an efficient soldier, being not only proficient in drill but one of the most promising young shots.

Russia has lately been pressing the Turkish Government for the payment of the war indemnity, long overdue.

Prince Kraft zu Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen says: "In our later wars the pursuit by cavalry came to a stop as soon as they lost the certainty that they were followed by the infantry."

The Rifle.

OTTAWA RIFLE CLUB.

The second weekly spoon competition of the Ottawa Rifle Club took place at the Rideau range on Saturday, 27th April. It was fired with Martini rifles at 200, 500 and 600 yards, seven shots at each range. There were three spoons offered, one in each class, and these were won by Messrs. Hutcheson, Cox and Lightfoot, respectively, the last named tying with C. S. Scott, and winning the tie, which was shot off. The leading scores were:

J. E. Hutcheson (1st sp)	26	29	32	87	T. C. Boville	30	23	22	75
Major H. F. Perley	25	30	31	86	T. McJanet	30	25	20	75
Lieut. J. W. O'Grady	29	30	27	86	E. Coste	24	21	25	70
Lieut. E. D. Sutherland	27	28	28	83	S. Short	20	28	22	70
T. Carroll	28	28	25	81	R. Moodie	29	21	19	69
Capt. S. M. Rogers	30	27	24	81	N. Macfarlane	25	27	16	68
Lt. Col. W. P. Anderson	28	23	28	79	H. Pratt	28	12	25	65
Capt. C. F. Cox, (2nd sp)	23	30	26	79	Dr. G. Hutchison	24	19	20	63
J. H. Ellis	28	31	19	78	J. P. Nutting	28	11	23	62
F. C. Lightfoot (3rd sp)	30	24	23	77	W. A. Jamieson	27	14	21	62
C. S. Scott	27	38	22	77	W. G. Dial	20	22	20	62
F. W. Smith	33	29	14	76	W. McKay	26	22	12	60

New Publications.

MILITARY HANDBOOKS published by Messrs. Wm. Clowes & Sons, (Ltd.) 13 Charing Cross, London, S.W., England.

We have much pleasure in directing attention to the following handbooks, published by the well known firm of Wm. Clowes & Sons, London. They are intended for infantry officers, and the text is in accordance with the new Infantry Drill, 1889. We commend them to all militia officers desiring to perfect themselves in the new system of drill. They are of a handy size, and can be carried in the pocket of the patrol jacket or tunic, and will be found a convenient reference book during the coming drill season in camps of exercise. Copies of the books will be sent, post free, on receipt of a remittance, by addressing Messrs. Clowes & Sons, as above.

Manuals by Capt. W. D. Malton.

1. A KEY TO INFANTRY DRILL, 1889; p.p. 80. Limp Cloth, 2nd edition, post free 1s 6d. Inscribed to Gen. Viscount Wolseley, Adjt.-General.

This little handbook contains all the changes made in the infantry drill, and will be found a useful and welcome companion to the red book itself. It is the aim of these notes to give, in a comparatively small compass, the pith of these extensive and important changes. The sections are each taken in the order in which they now come, and the numerous alterations, both in company and battalion drill, are given in the fullest detail, so that instead of having to peruse the new drill book for the changes, they can, by the aid of this key, be seen at a glance. The mastery of the contents of the drill book, without such a book as the one compiled by Capt. Malton, is a much more difficult matter than one would suppose, as it takes time and trouble to find out just *where* and just *what*, the changes are. With this handbook, the task is reduced to a minimum. The contents of the work are:—Synopsis of the changes in drill; definitions; squad company, battalion, brigade and division drill; manœuvre and route marching; tactics as influenced by fire; advance and rear guards and outposts; skirmishing, attack and defence and umpire regulations; conduct of operations by night.

3. THE DUTIES OF MARKERS IN DRILL—By Capt. W. D. Malton. Paper, pp. 28, post free 6d.

This book is also revised so as to contain the changes in Infantry Drill. Every n.c.o. should possess a copy. The work embraces all the movements done in company, battalion and brigade drill, and at inspections, and gives the directions as to what is done by markers at each word of command, so that at a glance each marker can see where he should be, what he should do, on what word of command he should move, and what word of command he should give. No marker who has carefully read and studied this little work should ever make a mistake on parade.

4. A MANUAL FOR MAJORS AND ADJUTANTS—By Capt. W. D. Malton. Limp cloth. Pp. 52. With plates. Post free 1s.

This, like the hand book for markers, gives the duties as well as the proper post of the field officers and adjutant (together with the words of command to be given by them) in drill and manœuvre. It is illustrated with plates showing the principal movements and the posts of these officers. It deals with battalion and brigade drill, inspections, reviews, manœuvre and route marching, advanced and rear guards, skirmishing and attack, shelter trench exercise, funerals, movement of troops by railway, encampments, duties in garrison and camp.

5. BRIGADE DRILL AND ATTACK FORMATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INFANTRY DRILL, 1889—By Capt. W. D. Malton. Limp cloth. Pp. 69. With plates. Post free 2s.

This manual gives the details of battalion drill, also the words of command, cautions and signals of brigade commanders, and the post and duties of brigade majors and battalion commanders, mounted officers, guides and base points. In the portion relating to battalion, beyond the words of command, detail is omitted as being presumably familiar to the reader, and therefore superfluous if not confusing in a work on brigade drill. The book should be in the possession of all regimental, commanding and field officers, who will find it of much assistance in their work in camp.

6. HANDBOOK OF COMPANY DRILL, ALSO OF SKIRMISHING, ATTACK, GUARDS, SENTRIES AND SWORD EXERCISE—By Captain Chas. Slack. Limp cloth. pp. 64 30th edition. Illustrated with plates. Post free 1s. 1d., or bound with the Catechism of Company Drill post free 1s. 7d.

The well known hand books compiled by Captain Slack need no commendation from us. They are a most valuable pocket companion to the Drill Book, being well arranged, handy and well illustrated by plates showing the different movements. Many doubtful points in the infantry drill may be cleared up by a reference to its pages, as the positions of the officers, sergeants, rank and file can easily be seen at a glance. Besides dealing with company drill, skirmishing and attack, the principal movements in battalion drill are given; also, directions for sizing, inspecting, proving and dismissing a company, manual and firing exercise, bayonet exercise, relieving guard, posting sentries, relieving sentries, and infantry sword exercise.

7. CATECHISM OF COMPANY DRILL, ALSO OF INTERIOR ECONOMY, MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION, SQUAD DRILL, GUARD DUTIES, PAY AND MESSING—By Capt. Chas. Slack. Limp cloth. pp. 64. 18th edition. Post free 1s. 1d., or bound with the Handbook of Company Drill, 1s. 7d. post free.

Contains questions and answers on all the movements in company drill and in the above subjects, and cipher messages, and forms a valuable companion to the Handbook of Company Drill. Details are also given of an officer's kit and equipment in the field. Tables of rifles used by all nations.

Gleanings.

The first railway in Persia, from Teheran to Mahmoud-Abasoum, is finished and in working order.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* states that there is not the slightest foundation for the report that the Duke of Cambridge has it in contemplation to resign his position as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. His Royal Highness is enjoying excellent health, is full of vigour still, notwithstanding his advancing years, and it is the earnest hope of the army, says the *Gazette*, that he may long continue at its head, for no one has done more than he has to raise its tone, promote its welfare and support its best traditions.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* shows that Mr. Stanhope's statement that England could meet an invading army with two army corps of 80,000 regulars, backed by 100,000 militia and by the volunteers, is totally at variance with facts. It says: "On paper we have a formidable force enough. But paper men, armed with paper muskets and possessed of only paper equipments, are of little use, it is to be feared, for the purposes of modern warfare, even under circumstances which those of the Lawson school of politics imagine to be so remote as the invasion of our shores by a well organized foreign army."

One hundred and forty Alsations have been fined 600 marks each for failing to report for service in the German Army.

Special Announcement.

We have made arrangements with Dr. B. J. Kendall Co., publishers of "A Treatise on the Horse and his Diseases," which will enable all our subscribers to obtain a copy of that valuable work *free* by sending their address (enclosing a two-cent stamp for mailing same) to DR. B. J. KENDALL CO., ENOSBURGH FALLS, VT. This book is now recognized as standard authority upon all diseases of the horse, as its phenomenal sale attests, over four million copies having been sold in the past ten years, a sale never before reached by any publication in the same period of time. We feel confident that our patrons will appreciate the work, and be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity of obtaining a valuable book. It is necessary that you mention this paper in sending for the "Treatise." This offer will remain open for only a short time.

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Mail Contract.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon on FRIDAY, 31st May, 1889, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails on a proposed contract for four years, six times per week each way, between Metcalfe and Ottawa, from the 1st July next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Metcalfe, Leirim, South Gloucester, Greely, Billings' Bridge, Ottawa, and at this office.

T. P. FRENCH,
Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Ottawa, 27th March, 1889.



Mail Contract.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on FRIDAY, 31st May, 1889, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails on a proposed contract for four years, six times per week each way, between Russell and North Branch, from the 1st July next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Russell, Marvelville, Kenmore, North Branch, and at this office.

T. P. FRENCH,
Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Ottawa, 29th March, 1889.



TENDERS.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Indian Supplies," will be received at this office up to noon on THURSDAY, 9th May, 1889, for the delivery of Indian supplies during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1890, consisting of Flour, Bacon, Groceries, Ammunition, Twine, Oxen, Cows, Bulls, Agricultural Implements, Tools, &c., duty paid, at various points in Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

Forms of tender containing full particulars relative to the supplies required, dates of delivery, &c., may be had by applying to the undersigned, or to the Indian Commissioner at Regina, or to the Indian Office, Winnipeg.

Parties may tender for each description of goods (or for any portion of each description of goods) separately or for all the goods called for in the schedules, and the Department reserves to itself the right to reject the whole or any part of a tender.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque in favor of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs on a Canadian Bank, for at least five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party tendering declines to enter into a contract based on such tender when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted, the cheque will be returned.

Each tender must, in addition to the signature of the tenderer, be signed by two sureties acceptable to the Department for the proper performance of the contract.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

This advertisement is not to be inserted by any newspaper without the authority of the Queen's Printer, and no claim for payment by any newspaper not having had such authority will be admitted.

L. VANKOUGHNET,
Deputy of Superintendent-General
of Indian Affairs.

Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, April, 1889.

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Wednesday, May 15th, 1889,

AT 2 P. M.

PRIZES VALUE.....\$50,000 0

CAPITAL PRIZE: 1 Real Estate Worth \$5,000 00

LIST OF PRIZES.

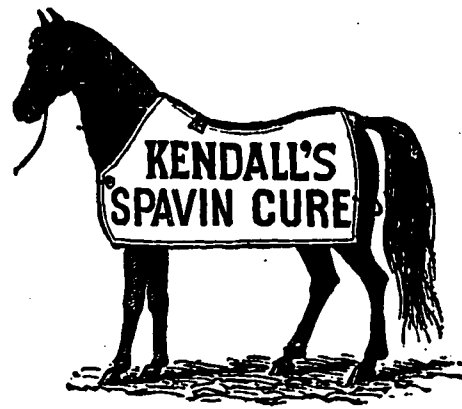
1 Real Estate worth.....	\$5,000	\$5,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	2,000	2,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	1,000	1,000
4 Real Estates.....	500	2,000
10 Real Estates.....	300	3,000
30 Furniture Sets.....	200	6,000
60 Furniture Sets.....	100	6,000
200 Gold Watches.....	50	10,000
1000 Silver Watches.....	10	10,000
1000 Toilet Sets.....	5	5,000
2307 Prizes worth.....		\$50,000

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CHAR. A. SNYDER.

KENDALL'S SPAVIN CURE.

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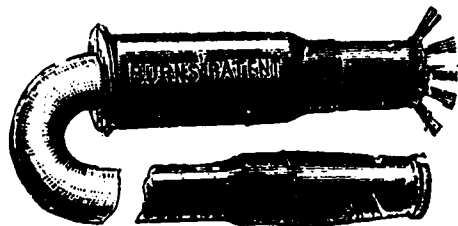
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For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE.

Post Office Department, Ottawa,
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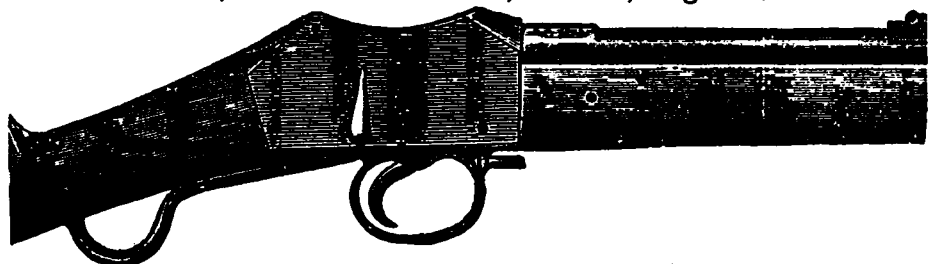
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